

Message Text

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43

ACTION SMI-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SP

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: STATE 77472 AND 88781

1. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH SPANISH BI-CENTENNIAL COMMISSION OFFICIAL, EMBASSY DOUBTFUL GOS WILL SUPPORT A SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL. AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FERNANDO SARTORIUS REPTD, THE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION FACES SERIOUS FUNDING PROBLEMS AND THE FOLKLIFE PROJECT DID NOT RECEIVE TOP PRIORITY CONSIDERATION IN ALLOCATION OF THOSE SCARCE FUNDS. AT PRESENT, THOSE BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS CONNECTED TO KING'S VISIT RATE TOP CONSIDERATION. UNTIL COMMISSION HAS FINANCED THESE EFFORTS IT IS RELUCTANT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS.

2. SARTORIUS ALSO NOTED THAT ASSEMBLING A DIVERSE GROUP LIKE THAT PROPOSED IN ANNA LOMAX PAPER WOULD HAVE CAUSED INSURMOUNTABLE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS. HE ARGUES THAT THOUGH ALMODOBAR DEL CAMPO GROUP NOT AS REPRESENTATIVE, IT DOES REFLECT SPANISH MUSICAL FOLK TRADITIONS; AND IS NEITHER COMMERCIAL NOR A CHORUS AND DANCE GROUP. CLAIMS IT IS REPRESENTING SPAIN IN TWO EUROPEAN FAIRS THIS YEARS. HOWEVER, IT IS EMBASSY BELIEF, THAT EVEN IF SMITHSONIAN ACCEPTED ALMODOBAR DEL CAMPO GROUP GOS WOULD HESITATE TO COMMIT SUCH FUNDS NOW, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW CANCELLATION ANY

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POST-WASHINGTON TOURING. SARTORIUS ARGUES THAT

INVESTMENT IS TOO GREAT FOR BENEFIT DERIVED. COMMISSION
MIGHT CONSIDER A REDUCED PARTICIPATION, BUT WOULD
PROBABLY NOT COMMIT FUNDING UNTIL JUNE 1.
STABLER

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